State of California • Department of Transportation
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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Caltrans Worker Killed Today on Antelope Valley Freeway (State Route 14) in Los Angeles County

185th Caltrans Employee Killed on the Job

LOS ANGELES — The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) announced that an employee of Caltrans District 7 was killed today on the Antelope Valley Freeway (State Route 14) in Los Angeles County.

Jorge Lopez, 57, an electrician, was a Caltrans employee for 16 years. He is survived by his wife and three adult children.

At 11:35 a.m. today, Lopez died when he was struck by a big rig as he was standing outside his vehicle on SR-14 in Acton.

He was pronounced dead at the scene. Two other Caltrans employees in their vehicles witnessed the incident, on southbound SR-14 at Crown Valley Road.

"Today we mourn the loss of one of our own in this tragic incident. Our thoughts and focus are on supporting the family at this time. This is an unfortunate reminder of how dangerous highway work can be," said Caltrans Director Malcolm Dougherty.

Lopez is the first Caltrans District 7 employee to die on the job since 2005. He is the 32nd in the history of District 7 (which includes Los Angeles and Ventura counties) and the 185th Caltrans employee to lose his life on the job.

District 7 has called a safety stand down to emphasize safety procedures. All routine or regularly scheduled highway maintenance activities are being temporarily halted to revisit and reinforce all aspects of field safety and to ask the public for help. Caltrans will post notices on its statewide network of electronic highway message signs reminding motorists to watch out for highway workers.

"These tragedies are sobering reminders that we must all do everything we can to keep our highways safe," said Dougherty. "Motorists must slow down, watch out for highway workers and safely move over a lane when passing work crews. This is why we have the 'Move Over' law."

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